

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 3-5 and 7, leaves claims 2 and 7 unchanged and adds new claims 8-11. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-11.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Amendments were made to claim 5 to place it in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 5 is allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Carino (U.S. Patent No. 6,651,072). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are not taught or suggested by Carino whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to each of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 so as to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly recite that the present invention provides an integrated database system and a program stored on a storage medium for realizing the integrated database system. According to the present invention, the integrated database system performs query processing by combining a plurality of external database.

According to the present invention the integrated database system includes a predicate dictionary including information on connections among predicates having similar means and usable in a query description of query input into the integrated database system and on strengths of the connections and query expansion means for referring to the information of connections among predicates having similar means and the strength of the connections included in the predicate dictionary to convert a query which is drawn into the integrated database system, into one or more query sets.

The present application describes, for example, in the passage beginning on page 13, line 24 through page 14, line 19 and from page 19, line 16 through page 20, line 7 that a predicate included in an input query is used so as to refer to the predicate dictionary so that similar predicates can be found. Thus, as per the present invention, the input query description is converted into one more descriptions having similar predicates as, for example, illustrated in Fig. 2 of the present application. By use of the present invention a query processing can be performed by combining a plurality of external databases, for example, by accessing each of the databases as shown in, for example, in the description of the invention as set forth in the passage beginning on page 14, line 24 through page 15, line 1.

Therefore, according to the present invention a user can conduct an effective query processing using the above described queries. Further, according to the present invention the user can prepare query description by using anyone of the predicates having similar meaning and conduct further query processing using the other predicates which have been found. Still further, according to the present

invention, as described, for example, on page 12, lines 13-16 it is possible to perform query processing by merging the obtained queries having similar predicates so as to generate a query plan.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly Carino whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

Carino simply teaches a method and apparatus for providing shared data to a requesting client. Carino teaches that a database query is received from a client on a first communication path and the database query is transformed into database management system commands. These database management system commands are transmitted to the database management system which provides in response an object locator identifying data responsive to the database query.

Particularly, in Carino a predicate included in a query description which has been described in the SQL-level language can only be converted into a series of database management system commands as described above. Accordingly, in Carino one predicate corresponds to only one such series of command not to predicates having similar meanings as in the present invention.

Further, Carino simply teaches that a library similar to a dictionary is provided as described at col. 8, lines 12-15 thereof. As taught by Carino, the library which may be similar to a dictionary is simply taught in col. 8, lines 12-15 of Carino as only indicating a code corresponding to a user defined function (USF). The Examiner's attention is also directed to col. 7, lines 66-67.

Thus, it is quite clear that Carino fails to teach or suggest a predicate dictionary including information on connections among predicates having similar meanings and usable in a query description of query input into the integrated database system and on strengths of the connections as recited in the claims.

Further, Carino fails to teach or suggest query expansion means for referring to the information of connections among predicates having similar means and the strength of the connections included in the predicate dictionary to convert a query, which is thrown into the integrate database system, into one or more query sets as recited in the claims.

Therefore, based on the above, Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are not taught or suggested by Carino whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 as being anticipated by Carino is respectfully requested.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 8-11. New claims 8-11 recite many of the same features which was shown above not to be taught or suggested by Carino. Therefore, the same arguments presented above with respect to claims 1-4, 6 and 7 apply as well to new claims 8-11.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 7.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.40525X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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